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SEACOAST HOME HEALTH CARE PROVIDER
PLEADS GUILTY TO FORGING CHECKS OF NINETY-FOUR YEAR OLD MAN

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE - United States Attorney Tom Colantuono announced today that Terri Thurlow pleaded guilty to one count of bank fraud in connection with a check forging scheme. The plea was taken by U.S. District Judge Joseph A. DiClerico, Jr. Thurlow, age 42, resides in Kittery, Maine, and, at the time of the crime, worked as a home health care aid.

At the plea hearing, Thurlow admitted that from 2003 until 2004, she wrote checks drawn against the account of the ninety-four year husband of a patient without the husband's authorization or knowledge. She further admitted that she forged his signature and then cashed the checks for her personal benefit. The government alleges that Thurlow stole and forged ninety-eight such checks with a total value of \$38,000. The husband had hired Thurlow to work in his home to care for his wife who was suffering from the advanced stages of Alzheimer's disease.

The Court scheduled Thurlow's sentencing for January 3, 2005. Thurlow faces a maximum sentence of thirty years and/or a fine of up to \$1,000,000. Thurlow pleaded guilty without the benefit of a plea agreement.

This matter was investigated by the Portsmouth Resident Agency of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The prosecution is being handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Bill Morse.